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Department of State
TELEGRAM

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ACTION: Amembassy MOSCOW

INFO: USUN
US Mission IAEA Vienna
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AEC

STATE

SUBJECT: Venting of Underground Explosions

1. Acting Assistant Secretary Springsteen called in Soviet Charge Vorontsov on December 16 to give him the following Aide Memoire, drawing on its substance for his accompanying remarks.

BEGIN QUOTE:

The United States collected outside the Soviet Union radioactive material directly associated with the Soviet nuclear explosion of September 27, 1971.

In view of Paragraph 1(b) of Article I of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space, and Underwater, the United States wishes to draw the attention of the Government of the Soviet Union to this matter, and

DRAFTED BY:

EUR/SOV:JJKad/ls:ls

DRAFTING DATE

12/16/71

TEL. EXT.

23350

APPROVED BY:

EUR - Mr. Springsteen
DAVIES

CLEARANCES:

EUR/SOV - Mr. Matlock
EUR - Mr. Davies
PM/AE - Mr. Handyside (substance)
ACDA/ST - Mr. Long (substance)

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to the importance of due precautions to insure
compliance with that treaty. The United States
considers this incident to be most regrettable
because of the relatively large quantity of
radioactive material collected and the fact that
this was the sixth Soviet nuclear explosion within
one year from which radioactive material has been
collected outside the Soviet Union. The United
States Government would welcome any pertinent
information the Soviet Government could make
available about this incident and the increasing
frequency of occurrences of this nature. END QUOTE

2. Springsteen added that he hoped the Soviet
Government will respond to our request for
information regarding this event. He noted that
the Soviets had made a statement regarding their
test of March 23, 1971, in response to our
previous approach.

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3. Vorontsov replied that he would bring the matter to the attention of his authorities, and that he hoped he would get a response to our request for information.

END

GP-4

ROGERS

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